

MOM'S JOY ROOM

2964 Fairmont Road, Morgantown, WV 26501 | (304) 282-3671

CERTIFICATE OF DESCRIPTION & VALUATION

Rare, Mark-Confirmed Effanbee "Mary Jane" 16" Ball-Jointed Composition Doll, c.1917–1921



MARKET VALUE

\$300–550

Realistic quick-sale price, private/shop market

ESTIMATED WORTH

\$650–950

Ceiling for antique composition doll specialty collectors



*16" Effanbee "Mary Jane" composition doll
Human hair wig with pink flower accent
Sleep eyes, closed/open painted mouth
Original antique lace-trimmed gown*

Effanbee "Mary Jane" — 16" All-Composition Ball-Jointed Doll

*Fleischaker & Baum (Effanbee), New York —
c.1917–1921*

HISTORY

Effanbee — a name formed from the initials of founders Bernard Fleischaker and Hugo Baum ("F and B"), was established in New York City around 1910 and went on to become one of America's most celebrated doll makers, later famous for the realistically proportioned Patsy doll (with its own 275,000-member fan club) and the innovative Dy-Dee Baby, the first hard rubber drink-and-wet doll. Long before those later successes, Effanbee introduced "Mary Jane" in 1917 — and she holds a genuinely special place in the company's history as **the only doll Effanbee ever produced with an all-composition, fully ball-jointed body**, jointed at the neck, shoulders, elbows, wrists, knees, and hips. This was a notable engineering achievement for an American composition doll of the era, giving Mary Jane a far greater range of poseable movement than the simpler disk-jointed or cloth-bodied composition dolls typical of the period.

Mary Jane was produced in 16, 18, 20, and 24-inch sizes from

1917 through 1923, with a brief revival in 1931, and was popular enough to be carried by Sears in their 1921 catalog alongside Effanbee's own retail sales — a testament to her broad appeal at the time. She was typically dressed in lace and ribbon-trimmed voile dresses, given a real human hair wig, and fitted with moving sleep eyes (some examples have painted eyes instead). Genuine marked examples carry "Effanbee" impressed or stamped on the back of the neck and across the back — a mark that has been physically confirmed on this particular doll, verifying her as an authentic Effanbee Mary Jane. This particular 16" example presents the classic Mary Jane look: a human hair wig styled with soft curls and a pink flower/ribbon accent, sleep eyes, and an antique lace-trimmed white gown consistent with her original period presentation.

NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ✦ Maker: Effanbee (Fleischaker & Baum), New York
- ✦ Model: "Mary Jane" — the only all-composition, fully ball-jointed doll Effanbee ever produced
- ✦ Size: 16 inches (also made in 18", 20", and 24")
- ✦ Production: 1917–1923, with a brief 1931 revival; also sold via Sears catalog in 1921
- ✦ Joints: Neck, shoulders, elbows, wrists, knees, and hips — genuine ball-jointed articulation
- ✦ Wig & Eyes: Real human hair wig, sleep eyes
- ✦ Costume: Antique lace-trimmed voile-style gown, period-consistent presentation

Collector's note: The impressed "Effanbee" mark has been physically confirmed on the back of this doll's neck, moving her from stylistic attribution to a fully mark-confirmed, authenticated example of the Mary Jane model — a meaningful upgrade in confidence and value, since unmarked or uncertain composition dolls of this era are common while confirmed Mary Jane examples are considerably scarcer. Rare surviving examples of Mary Jane in good condition — with an intact ball-jointed body, working sleep eyes, original human hair wig, and now a confirmed maker's mark, as seen here — are genuinely sought after by antique composition doll collectors specifically because of the model's unique engineering within Effanbee's catalog. Market Value reflects realistic private-sale/shop pricing for a confirmed, complete example of this age; Estimated Worth reflects the ceiling a dedicated Effanbee or antique composition specialist might pay for an authenticated Mary Jane in this condition.

"The only Effanbee girl ever built to bend at every

*joint — over a century later, she still moves the
way she was made to."*

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Sandy Wade, Proprietor

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(304) 282-3671